

Harvest Time in the Lake Country—1930's Style

A weekend of hard work and fun in Fall 2002 was organized by a long-time friend of Notary Ernie Janzen, Immediate Past President of The Society, and his wife Agnes. The friend's hobby is collecting and restoring old farm machinery. Most of his collection dates to the late '30s and early '40s.

To keep the machinery in working order, the friend "works the land": an acre of agricultural land in Lake Country, BC. At harvest time, friends are invited to assist—if they dress in '40's farm clothing. Most farmers of the time dressed in tired suit pants, suspenders, and old white shirts—former Sunday-best attire.

The four visiting couples parked their wagons (RVs) in a circle. Over the weekend, the acre of rye yielded 30 bushels. Significant amounts of homemade bread, soup, pies, and other goodies were consumed. Agnes took home a quantity of the rye, which she is grinding to make excellent organic rye bread.

Because all participants had grown up on prairie grain farms, the weekend brought back a lot of memories. Youngsters at the time, they were spared the gruelling work that went into harvesting the many acres required to provide an adequate income for a family.

It may have been a fun weekend, but Ernie says he's glad he doesn't need to rely on the land for a living! ▲

